

IN MEMORY OF IRENE WOODFIN

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 10, 2000*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I now rise to honor the life and memory of an outstanding person, my friend Irene Woodfin. Sadly, Irene passed away July 8, 2000 in her own home. As family and friends mourn her passing, I would like to pay tribute to this beloved wife to her husband, mother to her children, and friend to all. She will be missed by many. Even so, her life was a remarkable one that is most deserving of both the recognition and praise of this body.

Much of Irene's life was spent educating and helping others. Irene graduated from Greeley Colorado State Teacher's College (UNC) in 1927. After her distinguished teaching career, Irene retired from teaching in 1971. Irene was also very involved in community organizations and events throughout her life. Some of the groups she belonged to included being a member of Delta Kappa Gamma (Xi Chapter), American Association of University Women (AAUW), and always an active participant in her local church choir. Irene's love of making music and crafts brought her great distinction and were rightly a source of pride.

While her involvement in education and community are to be remembered, Irene's lasting legacy rests in her family. Irene is survived by her husband of 69 years, Dick Woodfin. Irene was the mother to three, grandmother to eight, great-grandmother to 17, and great-great-grandmother to 4. She also had 11 step-grand-children. In her children, grandchildren, and their offspring, Irene's love and generosity will endure.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Irene was a person who lived an accomplished life. Although friends and family are profoundly saddened by her passing, each can take solace in the wonderful life that she led. I know I speak for everyone who knew Irene well when I say she will be greatly missed.

RECOGNITION OF THE PEOPLE OF  
THE INDIAN STATE OF PUNJAB**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 10, 2000*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary people of the Indian state of Punjab.

Punjab is an agricultural state, home of the Green Revolution and famous for the diligence of its people. Though Punjab comprises only 1.5 percent of India's territory, farmers from the state have provided 65 percent of India's wheat and 45 percent of its rice for the past 25 years. Punjab is a naturally breathtaking place, but I was most inspired by the limitless potential of its people. They are hardworking men and women, striving to better the lives of their families and neighbors, and sharing a deep devotion to God.

While in the city of Amritsar I visited the Golden Temple, the spiritual capital of Punjab and the destination of all Sikh pilgrims. It was truly an honor to witness the Sikh faith in prac-

tice within the walls of their holiest of temples. After experiencing the Punjabi people's intense spirituality firsthand, I now understand why Punjab today enjoys peace and stability.

Mr. Parkash S. Badal, Chief Minister of Punjab, was kind enough to meet with me during my stay in Punjab. We met not in the capital city, but in the small village of Sahouli, where the Chief Minister demonstrated his sincere concern for the villagers and farmers of Punjab. He is a man of great commitment to the state of Punjab and its people, and he has worked relentlessly to improve the lives of all Punjabis. The Chief Minister expressed to me the Punjabi people's profound desire to build a strong and lasting relationship with the United States, and he has asked for the help of this House of Representatives in doing so.

I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to welcome the Punjabi people with open arms. President Clinton recently traveled to India, and in doing so he displayed great foresight and wisdom. I believe it is our obligation to follow the President's lead and work to establish strong ties between our two nations' governments, businesses and citizens. I am confident Chief Minister Badal will continue to guide Punjab towards progress and prosperity, and I am hopeful my colleagues here today will join with me in my efforts to broaden and extend our personal and economic collaboration with the people of Punjab indefinitely.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 10, 2000*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted yes on Roll Call No. 369 and was unable to correct my vote in time prior to announcement of the result. My intention was to vote no.

TRIBUTE TO TURNER N.  
ROBERTSON**HON. EVA M. CLAYTON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 10, 2000*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, July 2, 2000, a long-time official of the House will be laid to rest in Scotland Neck, North Carolina. At age 91, Turner N. Robertson has been called to rest and to reside in a place of total peace.

Mr. Robertson came to Congress in 1939, with then Representative John Kerr. He served in various positions until 1947, when he was appointed by Speaker Sam Rayburn as Chief of Page. He served in that position until his retirement in 1972, and moved to Coral Springs, Florida. Yet, even in retirement, he was consulted by Speakers John McCormick and Carl Albert. He received the Employee of the Year Award for the House of Representatives in 1971. A plaque to this effect hangs in the U.S. Capitol, across from the Speaker's office.

Turner was a gentle man, a true and honest American, a devoted husband and loving father. All who knew him were touched by his

humility, strength of character and faith in God. He was well respected on Capitol Hill, and his friends spanned the spectrum from the Congresspersons he served to the Pages he supervised.

Born in Macon, North Carolina, on April 22, 1909, his early life involved great personal sacrifice. Yet, he was guided by faith. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Ernestine, his daughter Barbara, his brother Bernard and sister Myrtice. His earthly family included many relatives, friends and church families in Washington, DC, Virginia, North Carolina and Florida. Turner N. Robertson was an ordinary man who was special and a special man who was ordinary.

God's finger has gently touched him and he now sleeps. I am confident that he has left a lasting impression on those who came to know him, and the principles that guided him will now serve as guideposts for those he leaves behind. He shall surely be missed. I feel certain, however, that he would want all of us to rejoice in his life and the time he spent on this earth.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN LINDER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 10, 2000*

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I would like it to be noted in the RECORD that on June 23, 2000, I intended to vote nay on Roll Call No. 372, final passage of H.R. 1304, the Quality Health Care Coalition Act.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE BENNIE  
HOLMES, JR.**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 10, 2000*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sadness that I honor the life of Bennie Holmes Jr., who passed away recently at too young an age. Mr. Holmes' leadership in the civil rights movement and as an anti-poverty activist earned him the respect of our entire San Francisco community; his caring heart and kind ways earned him our affection. Bennie's presence in the community can never be replaced, but the work of his life will live on after him.

Bennie was born and reared in McComb, Mississippi, and it was there that he learned the values of hard work, community, and his deeply rooted sense of justice. In the late 1950's, he moved to California, and in 1961 he graduated from Monrovia High School in Los Angeles County. He later moved to San Francisco and continued his education at San Francisco State University, where he earned a degree in Political Science.

Mr. Holmes worked much of his life for racial equality. He helped to found the N.A.A.C.P. Junior Chapter at Pasadena College in 1961. In 1964 he organized a group from San Francisco which joined the 1964 march for civil rights that went from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. He fought continually for the cause of civil rights with the Congress